

## **Draft Finding of No Significant Impact**

### **Fort Belvoir Travel Camp U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir Directorate of Public Works Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

**Name of Action:** Construction and Operation of a Travel Camp at Fort Belvoir.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Under the proposed action, the Army would construct and operate a Travel Camp in the Tompkins Basin Recreation Area on the Main Post of Fort Belvoir. Construction of the Travel Camp would provide recreational vehicle (RV) pads, tent campsites, and rustic cabins. Other amenities would include potable water, communications, and sanitary hook-ups for the RV sites; a shower and laundry facility; playgrounds; internal circulation roads; and other support facilities.

Because the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a camping opportunity at Fort Belvoir and to generate revenue for the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR) at Fort Belvoir, the Army did not evaluate off-post sites. The Army did consider alternative locations for the Travel Camp during earlier planning for proposed development of the Tompkins Basin Recreational Area (TBRA), as well as the "No Action" alternative. Earlier proposals for TBRA development variously included a marina, a hotel, and other amenities, but these proposals were never approved. The specific nature of the resources needed to create the Travel Camp, coupled with environmental constraints at Fort Belvoir, limited the number of alternative locations that could be considered. Two site alternatives to the proposed action were assessed during the early stages of Travel Camp project development and both were located in the Tompkins Basin Recreational Area. These alternative sites were both rejected because of concerns raised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Protection of bald eagle habitats at the alternative sites would have required such restrictive usage times for the marina that development of the proposed marina was determined to be infeasible.

**Environmental Consequences:** The Environmental Assessment (EA), which is attached and incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), examined the following potential effects of the proposed action alternative and possible mitigation strategies.

**Natural Resources:** The location proposed for the Travel Camp was selected in part because it is an area that was previously developed (cleared and graded) and accessible through preexisting roads, thus helping to minimize impacts to the natural environment. Additionally, the Army would mitigate natural resource impacts by maximizing retention and protection of existing trees and native vegetation; planting native wetland plants in storm drainage areas to promote water quality. Approximately 7.6 acres of Partners In Flight (PIF) buffer area would be impacted by the proposed action; since this is only a small fraction of the available upland forest area located on the installation, the effects to PIF Species are expected to be minimal. Because the proposed site is located in an area that was already disturbed and partially developed, impact to natural resources such as vegetation would be significantly reduced. Prior to construction, the Army would prepare a Tree Preservation Plan for the proposed action to more accurately delineate and serve to mitigate against the anticipated vegetation impacts. Trees removed by clearing and grading that are 4-inch diameter or greater would be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. Disturbed areas would not extend beyond the limits of disturbance and be restored through planting and re-seeding after construction. Additionally, the Army would take steps to protect seeps and recharge areas and strictly adhere to erosion and sediment control and stormwater management laws and regulations to minimize impacts to aquatic ecosystems. No federally Endangered or state Special Status species would be affected by the proposed action.

**Noise:** Construction would be limited to weekday business hours. Construction equipment would use mufflers. Noise from the operation of the Travel Camp is expected to be minor.

**Infrastructure and Utilities:** The proposed action would have a moderate impact on infrastructure and utilities through connections to new sanitary sewer lines and potable water lines planned for the Tompkins Basin area. Stormwater management during construction will include provisions for erosion and sediment control and use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Indications from Dominion Virginia Power are that existing infrastructure is adequate to meet electrical power demand for the Travel Camp.

**Community Facilities and Services:** Because the number of employees that would be required to operate the Travel Camp is small (6) and the average number of patrons projected to be use the facility at any one time is low (179), the proposed action would have a low impact on community facility and services.

**Transportation and Traffic:** The proposed action would have a minor impact on long-term increases in traffic on local roadways because transit to and from the Travel Camp would be anticipated to occur typically during off-peak hours, and traffic volume would be relatively small.

**Mitigations:** BMPs and adherence to applicable policies/regulations that would be implemented for resource protection are included with discussions of each respective resource area in the Draft EA. No mitigation measures for effects on socioeconomics, utilities, air quality, cultural resources, topography, soil integrity, migratory birds, surface water quality, floodplains, waters of the U.S. including wetlands and Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Areas, Land Use, Coastal Zone Management would be required. Air pollutant emissions from the proposed action would not be significant and below de minimis levels for general conformity.

**Summary of Environmental Impacts:** The proposed action would not have significant impacts to human health or the environment. No significant cumulative impacts or indirect impacts are anticipated.

**Conclusions:** On reviewing the EA and other project information, the Garrison Commander at Fort Belvoir has concluded that the proposed action would not have significant impacts on the environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

**Notice of Availability:** The EA is available for public review at the Directorate of Public Works and Van Noy Library, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and at Lorton, Sherwood, Kingstowne and Fairfax City Regional branches of the Fairfax County Public Libraries. A copy of this notice and the EA can be viewed at [www.belvoir.army.mil](http://www.belvoir.army.mil).

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication date to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, 9430 Jackson Loop, Suite 100, ATTN: IMNE-BEL-PW, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116 or e-mail comments to [environmental-fb-dpw@conus.army.mil](mailto:environmental-fb-dpw@conus.army.mil). For more information, contact Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Chief of Environmental and Natural Resource Division, Directorate of Public Works, at (703) 806-4007.